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OPERATION ★ READY ★ FAMILIES



The Air National Guard Has a Heart for Families!

OPERATION Ready FAMILIES

JUNE
2007

Listing of websites is for information purposes only and does not imply endorsement of any product or services by the United States Air Force, The California National Guard, the 144th Fighter Wing, CA Air National Guard or the Operation Ready Families Organization.

144TH FW FAMILY MEMBERS ARE WELCOME ON BASE

by CMSgt. Michael Pretzer

Visiting the base for our family members can be a little intimidating. Unlike going to the local shopping Mall or dropping the kids off at school there are some unique differences and requirements when entering the base. For our Wing's military members it is just a routine procedure that isn't given much thought. However, non-military family members are not accustomed to armed individuals, gates, barriers, or possible vehicle searches. Addressing the reasons and procedures for base entry will hopefully give a better understanding and ease some of the anxiety for our visiting family members.



The 144th FW is designated as a 'Closed Base'. This simply means that authorized access must be verified for all personnel requiring entry. There are several categories for authorized access. The most obvious is Wing membership, as either a military member or civilian employee. The Security Forces maintains listings of all full time employees, Drill Status Guardsmen, and civilian employees. These listings are used to authorize unescorted entry onto the installation. All official visitors to the base are pre-announced and authorization lists are provided to Security enabling authorized entry. Military or civilian members of the 144th FW present their

government issued ID card to the posted entry controller upon entry. Personal recognition may be utilized by the entry controllers to allow entry after positive verification of the ID card. If the person is unknown to the entry controller they will verify the ID card against an authorization list to allow entry. Additionally, each Wing member is issued DOD vehicle stickers for placement on their POV's to expedite entry requirements. POV's POV (Personal Owned Vehicle) without DOD stickers must be issued a special pass at the gate prior to entry.

ORF VISION:

To assist the 144FW as it supports the families of Guard members during peacetime, training and deployment.

ORF MISSION STATEMENT:

To establish and encourage effective, consistent communication and increased understanding between military leadership and functioning families of unit members.

Format, Design and Set Up of newsletter by Suzanne Moles, an ORF volunteer.



Lt. Theresa Crystal (PAO) congratulates Laurie Rushie on her "Golden" R.O.S.E.S. Award (Recognition of Outstanding Selfless, Exemplary Service)



VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

Congratulations to These Outstanding Volunteers



Suzanne Moles received the "Above and Beyond Award" for exceptional volunteer service on base, at State and National level.



Jeff Crippen received the Longevity Award for 10 years of consistent faithful volunteer service.



Wendy Tibbet received the Volunteer Commitment Award for steadfast and persevering volunteer service with FRG and Guard youth program.

A very successful luncheon was held on May 3rd by the Family Readiness Group to recognize volunteers for their service to the 144th Fighter Wing in 2006.

Volunteers were awarded certificates and pins for their contributions during the year. Our military members dropped by to join in the fun and enjoy the wonderful Hawaiian spread that was organized by Laurie Rushie.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - 144FW/JA

SPOUSES AND FAMILY MEMBERS

by
Major Richard Jackson
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate



Spouses and family members of Air National Guard (ANG) members who are entitled to an identification card are eligible for legal assistance. However, for spouses and family members to receive this legal assistance, the ANG member must be on a duty status (Inactive Duty Training, Full Time National Guard Duty, or Active Duty). Eligible spouses and family members can seek legal assistance at National Guard Bases and Active Duty bases; yes, even at an Army or a Navy base.

Free legal assistance applies to legal issues related to or impinging on an

ANG member's ability to deploy or do one's mission. This includes, among other things, wills, powers of attorney, medical care directives, notary services, dependent care plans, employment problems rising from military duty, landlord-tenant problems related to deployment, tax problems related to deployment, and matters relating to Federal Active Duty and the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act.

We may not provide legal assistance for issues relating to private business enterprises, criminal law, matters in which the Air Force or Air National Guard has a legal interest, or areas outside our expertise or too complex or time-consuming. We also may not represent any client in a court or administrative proceeding. However, feel free to call us on the above issues as we might be able to provide some guidance or where to obtain legal guidance.

If you would like to make an appointment for legal assistance, please call our office during drill weekends at the Fresno Air National Guard Base at (559) 454-5153 so we can schedule an appointment.

ORF Office

(559) 454-5383

Monday - Friday

7.30am - 4pm and

UTA Saturday 7.30am - 4pm

Location: Logistics Readiness/Supply Building



ORF Calendar of Events

JUNE 2

Commander's Call Off site – Mountain View Church

ORF Business Meeting 10:30-12:00

JUNE 3-9 ORF Office closed - WFPC Training, Arlington, VA

JUNE 22-24 CA Volunteer Only Course, Anaheim

June 23-29 CA Teen Adventure Training Camp, SLO

July 7 **NO** ORF Volunteer Meeting

CPR Training, 8:00-12:00, LRS Conference Rm

Jul 14-15

CA Marriage Enrichment Seminar, TBD

July 22-26

ORF Office closed - NGB National Family Program Workshop, Chicago, IL

Aug 4

ORF Business Meeting 10:00-12:00; Exec Bd nominations

Aug 4

Newcomers Orientation Briefing & Dessert

Aug 11-12

CA Marriage Enrichment Seminar, TBD

Sept 8

ORF Business Meeting 10:00-11:30;

Exec Bd Elections for FY08

144FW Base Picnic – LTBD ORF booth/activities

Sept 15

AOY Table Favor Preparations

Oct 13

ORF Business Meeting 10:30-12:00 Off base - VCC (ORE Phase II)

(Contributions for Base Children's Party gift bags)

Nov 3

ORF Business Meeting 10:30-12:00

Gift Bag-stuffing for Base Children's Christmas Party Outstanding Airman/1st Sgt of the Year Banquet

Dec 1

Commander's Call - Mountain View Church

ORF Business meeting & Christmas Brunch 10:30-1:00

Newcomers Orientation briefing & Christmas treats

Dec TBD Base Children's Christmas Party – ORF table



What's T.A.N.G.?

by Jordan Flaughter

Teen Air & Army National Guard....our regional Guard youth group.....have you heard of it? More and more Central Valley Guard youth are beginning to learn about this group as word is spread through family services and participants of the group. We were one of the first organized Guard youth groups in the state of California. Now CA - ORF has stepped in to connect Guard youth all over the state. They're forming regional youth councils to work with advisory teams toward the goal of making and maintaining such connections.

Our T.A.N.G. regional council met in January to establish a schedule of events for the year. Recently, Wendy Tibbet, our able T.A.N.G. coordinator, arranged for fun ice skating and team paintball events. There are upcoming community service opportunities planned for the year, as well as more fun and adventure, training, and plans to learn about and celebrate our National Guard families.

WAIC SUMMER CAMPER-SHIPS

California National Guard Child & Youth Program, in partnership with the Western Association of Independent Camps (WAIC), are making available "Camper-ships" for children of the California National Guard! Over 30 summer camps located throughout California and other neighboring states provide Guard Youth with a variety of choices. Day Camps or residential camps offer activities from archery and rock climbing to crafts and drama, with a positive environment for youth to learn, live, work, and play, and build memories and friendships that last a life time. Log on to <http://www.guardfamily.org/> and check out the links to participating camps (under "Announcements"). Please understand that you must select your camp during your confirmation call as it is first come - first served, and we can not hold your spot while you make your decision. For more information, you can download our flyer at: <http://www.guardfamily.org/Public/FileDownload.aspx?rid=1564>

THE SOLDIER

by Moranda Hern

I will trust in the Lord, only he knows his fate.
He sent him there, so He will protect him right?
I don't know, but I hope so, because he took up the fight.
God always prevails, I have to tell myself, but it hurts to wait.
Wait, wait I must, and remember, God controls his fate.
So I pray, 'God make his burden light,
'Protect him as he fights, and bring home tonight.'
Waiting for their turn to come home, the soldiers laugh about times of late.
I always pray for them, that God would smother him with protection.
But then a startling thought comes into my mind, 'what if God has other plans?'
How am I supposed to know if he is okay? Then I tell myself, he is in God's hands,
And I have to allow God to enforce on me correction.
I just have to accept that God has a plan for my dad, and each brother,
Because God always brings His children home, in one way or another.



TANG members attending FRG luncheon.

Military Kids Care

Fresno Hammerfield Armory

Sat. June 30th, 2007

Time: 2:00 - 7:00pm

All age children of **ALL** service branches.

**DEMONSTRATIONS,
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, STATIC
DISPLAYS & EVENT STATION
ROTATIONS**

Opening Ceremonies – Sea Cadets, Military Anthem Melody (Bagpipes)

Rotations:

Dream Catchers
Hand Print Flag
Bells, Knots
Water Balloons
Cannons
Flag Etiquette
Monkey Bridge
Rope Making
Scuttlebutt, Tomahawks
Military Lingo (Alphabet Code)
S'mores & Much More

Demonstrations:

Blacksmithing
Buglers
Fresno Wildlife
Stag and Thistle (Bagpipes)

Dinner:

Hot Dogs, Chips and Bottled Water

Closing Ceremonies

Flag Retirement

CANG TEEN ADVENTURE

CAMP 23-29 JUNE 2007

AT CSLO



The fifth annual CANG Teen Adventure Camp is open to 13-18 years old. Camp starts on Saturday and ends on Friday. Applications are on the CANG ORF website: <http://www.calguard.ca.gov/readyfamilies/> Estimated cost is \$150 which may be reduced as donations are received. Questions? (559) 454-5383

ADULT ADVISORS FOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Background Checks are now required for all individuals currently involved or seeking involvement with any program/activity in the California National Guard (CNG) Operation Ready Families Program/Child and Youth Program (ORFP-CYP) or other youth programs/activities that request ORFP-CYP involvement. Packets with required forms, procedures, and fee reimbursement information for the criminal background investigation (including Live Scan) are available through MSgt Karin Porter (559) 454-5305 or (559) 454-5383. Applicant Live Scan Fingerprint Services Locations and Hours of Operation are available online at website: <http://ag.ca.gov/fingerprints/publications/contact.php>

OPERATION PURPLE SUMMER CAMP

National Military Family Association's Operation Purple summer camp is a great opportunity for children of Guardmembers to experience fun and adventure while learning valuable coping skills and making lasting friendships.

There are four camps in California and one of them is a camp for the dependants of injured soldiers.

Beautiful surroundings, challenging activities, meaningful relationships and memorable times together await Guard children.

For full information on this year's camps, please go to the site (www.operationpurple.org) and look at these camps.

ORF Office

(559) 454-5383

Monday - Friday

7.30am - 4pm and

UTA Saturday 7.30am - 4pm

Location: Logistics Readiness/Supply Building



TANG Calendar of Events

June 2

Career Info Fair-Recruiting Op
Job Shadow - 144FW shops

June 23-29

CANG Teen Adventure Camp SLO

July 14

NRA - Black Powder Shooting

August 10

Millerton Lake, Camping
Water Survival Training

September 8

144FW Base Picnic events

September 22

T.A.N.G. Banquet (awards)

October 20

Haunted House

TBD "Down & Dirty" Mock Deployment

November 17

Neon Bowling

Toys for Tots

December 8

Christmas Party

Diversity/Cultural Potluck

Entry for family members is a little different. Since lists of family members are not maintained by the 144th FW, any family member or dependent requiring access without the military member present should be pre-announced to the Security Forces. The military sponsoring member should notify Central Security Control (CSC) at 454-5240 or Base Dial 5240 to advise Security of the name, date and time of the family member's arrival and to arrange for parking directions. If prior notification is not arranged, the entry controller will contact the military member upon arrival of the family member in order to allow entry. Family members may use their government dependent ID card, drivers license, or other official pictured ID card for verification.

Here is a quick overview of the base entry requirements for visiting family members and dependents.

1. DOD vehicle stickers expedite entry; ensure your military sponsor gets them for your vehicle.
2. Have your ID ready to show the entry controller.
3. Tell the entry controller your sponsor's name, relation, and your reason for the visit. If your visit was pre-announced, parking directions will be given; if not, your sponsor will be notified to assist you in parking.
4. The 144th FW has implemented Random Antiterrorism Measures or what we affectionately call RAMS. One of these RAMS is to select vehicles, via a random process, for searching. If your vehicle is selected, just follow the entry controller's directions. It is a simple process that you will assist in.

Our Force Protection status can change at a moment's notice, so have your military sponsor keep you informed when changes occur. You can always call CSC, at the above listed numbers, if questions concerning base access arise. Special on-base functions or pre/post deployment gatherings involving family members and dependents are always accommodated. Thank you for your support to your military member and to the 144th FW's Force Protection.



TRIWEST INFORMATION

Keep Kids Current in DEERS

As a parent, you want to ensure the best for your children, and that includes health care coverage. Your children's TRICARE eligibility hinges on their DEERS records, so it's important to keep DEERS updated from birth through college.

New Addition to the Family?

To enroll a newborn or adopted child in TRICARE Prime, you must enroll your children quickly. As parents, you have 60 days from your child's date of birth or adoption to enroll your child in TRICARE Prime.

To register your new child in DEERS, (Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System) you must obtain a copy of:

- The child's birth certificate; OR

- Certificate of live birth; OR

- Adoption papers.

AND

- DD Form 1172 (Application for Uniformed Services Identification Card and DEERS enrollment.) This form must be notarized if the new enrollee does not reside with the sponsor.

File these forms with the Base Personnel Office. In addition to

the sponsor, another parent or a guardian should be prepared to show Power of Attorney if the sponsor is deployed or TDY.

College Bound?

If you have a child headed for college it is important to keep DEERS records updated in order to maintain TRICARE eligibility in their new city. Updating DEERS is easy and can be done in any of the following ways:

- Visit an ID card issuing facility (To locate one, visit www.dmdc.osd.mil)
- Call 1-800-538-9552

- Fax changes to 831-655-8317
- Mail changes to:
Defense Manpower Data Center
Support Office
Attn: COA
400 Gigling Rd.
Seaside, CA 93955-6771

To update your address only in DEERS, you may do so online by visiting:
www.dmdc.osd.mil/appi/address/index.jsp

Military Lodging: On-base Lodging

Temporary, space-available lodging at military installations can offer great value and convenience when you're traveling. Remember that on-base lodging is also offered to all Reserve and National Guard members. This includes any "gray area" reserve and guard retirees who have "retired" but have not reached age 60 and are not yet receiving a retirement check.

This section will help you find temporary on-base lodging from all military services. The information is broken down by service branch for lodging on military installations.

You can find detailed information on installations in the Military Installations Guide (http://benefits.military.com/misc/installations/Landing_Page.jsp), including:

- * Community data
- * Medical and dental facilities data

(valuable to know when traveling)

- * Education and employment data
 - * Commonly-referenced phone numbers
 - * Commissary and exchange operations
 - * Transportation, government housing
 - * Other "must know" items specific to that installation
- During your pre-trip planning, be sure to check out the Service Lodging and Dining Facilities for

the Air Force, Army and Navy. This can be useful information to have on hand for each of the gateways and destinations you might visit along the way.

Also check out the Military Travel Discount Center (<http://benefits.military.com/discount-center/travel/home.do>) for hot deals on commercial hotels and accommodations.

Sarah Glazebrook & Cheryl Gann

Volunteer Recognition Luncheon



144FW

Family Resource Roster

VOLUNTEER ONLY COURSE

22-24 June 2007 in Anaheim

This course is a follow-on to the Family Readiness Course, providing leadership skills training to unit and command volunteer coordinators.

Sessions include: 3 R's

in Volunteering, The Media & You, Advanced Deployment Issues Discussion, Volunteer Professionalism & Ethics, Be A Part of the Solution - A Practical Exercise, and Compassion Fatigue for Volunteers. For more information, contact June Sato at (916) 361-4957.

To register, go to:

<http://www.prestoregister.com/cgi-bin/order.pl?ref=Readyfamilies&fm=1>



GUARD FAMILY WEB SITE

Have you registered on the Guard Family web site yet??

If not, go to www.guardfamily.org and select your category and find all information about the National Guard.

With the continuing Global war on Terrorism (GWOT) and the ever changing face and duties of the National Guard, it is imperative to look to the future of Family Programs while remaining flexible in the present. As your Guardsman takes on a more active role in "the total Force" of the military, the role of family programs is also changing, to fit your growing needs.

SIGN UP TODAY!

ORF Office

(559) 454-5383

Monday - Friday

7.30am - 4pm and

UTA Saturday 7.30am - 4pm

Location: Logistics Readiness/Supply Building

OPERATION READY FAMILIES

Barbara Draughon (559) 454-5383

ORF - VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Wendy Tibbet (559) 291-2364

MEMBER'S & SQUADRON/UNIT POC

454-

BASE EVENTS

1Lt Heather Pratt (559) 454-5262

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Joe Ordonez (559) 454-5134

PAYROLL

TSgt Lori Wilcox (559) 454-5266

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

CMSgt Cindy Downing (559) 454-5281

PERSONAL/DEATH NEEDS

SMSgt Linda Holt (559) 454-5275

BX/COMMISSARY

SPOUSE & FAMILY ID CARDS

Servicing Personnel (559) 454-5274

LEGAL SERVICES /

JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

Servicing Staff Judge Advocate (559) 454-5153

CRISIS INTERVENTION /

RELIGIOUS NEEDS

Chaplain Lambert Sikkema (559) 454-5152

Local Support Groups for Families

Operation We Care

Support Group meets on the last Tuesday of each month at the Hammer Field, Fresno Armory,
5575 E. Airways,
Room 122 & 123, 7:00 pm

Contacts:

Sue Miguel (559) 994-6102 (cell)
Bonnie Bogges (559) 706-0223

144FW Operation Ready Families
meets each UTA Saturday,
10:30-12:00
POC:
Wendy Tibbet (559) 917-0189 or
Barb Draughon (559) 454-5383

Central Valley: BLUE STAR MOMS

The Central Valley Blue Star Support Group is for military family members of all branches of service. They meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. in the Northwest Church, 5415 N. West Avenue, Fresno. Get involved with this great group of people supporting our military forces and families in productive ways.

POC:
Debbie Hallman (559) 271-3039



Operation Ready Families
144th Fighter Wing
5323 E. McKinley Avenue
Fresno CA 93727-2199

